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- (54) MAGNETORESISTIVE SENSOR HAVING A HIGH RESISTANCE SOFT MAGNETIC LAYER BETWEEN SENSOR STACK AND **SHIELD**
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## (57)**ABSTRACT**

A magnetoresistive sensor has a high resistance soft magnetic layer disposed between the sensor stack and at least one magnetic shield. The presence of the high resistance soft magnetic layer allows a smaller magnetic read gap to be achieved which results in higher recording density. The susceptibility of the magnetoresistive sensor to defects and electrostatic damage is improved. A disk drive is provided having the novel magnetoresistive sensor.

